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# **PCT**

## INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY EXAMINATION REPORT

(PCT Article 36 and Rule 70)

Applicant's or agent's file reference HJ/FI990730	FOR FURTHER ACTION		ration of Transmittal of International Examination Report (Form PCT/IPEA/416)		
International application No.	International filing date (da	ay/month/year)	Priority date (day/month/year)		
PCT/FI00/00264	29.03.2000		01.04.1999		
International Patent Classification (IPC) o	r national classification and	IPC <sub>7</sub>			
B63B 25/24					
ļ	•				
Applicant					
Finnlines OYJ et al					
<ol> <li>This international preliminary examination report has been prepared by this International Preliminary Examining Authority and is transmitted to the applicant according to Article 36.</li> <li>This REPORT consists of a total of sheets, including this cover sheet.</li> <li>This report is also accompanied by ANNEXES, i.e., sheets of the description, claims and/or drawings which have been amended and are the basis for this report and/or sheets containing rectifications made before this Authority (see Rule 70.16 and Section 607 of the Administrative Instructions under the PCT).</li> </ol>					
These annexes consist of a total of					
3. This report contains indications re-	lating to the following items	:			
I 🔀 Basis of the report			•		
II Priority	•				
	opinion with regard to nove	alty inventive sten	and industrial applicability		
· L	-	nty, inventive step	and industrial applications		
IV Lack of unity of inver	ntion	•			
	nder Article 35(2) with regations supporting such statem		ntive step or industrial applicability;		
VI Certain documents cit	ed				
VII Certain defects in the	international application				
VIII Certain observations	on the international applicati	ion			
00.000.0000					
Date of submission of the demand	Date of submission of the demand Date of completion of this report				
18.08.2000 20.06.2001					
Name and mailing address of the IPEA/SE	A	uthorized officer			
Patent- och registreringsverket Box 5055	Telex 17978				
S-102 42 STOCKHOLH PATOREG-S Björn Salén/js					
Facsimile No. 08-667 72 88 Telephone No. 08-782 25 00 Form PCT/IPEA/409 (cover sheet) (January 1998)					



International application No.	
PCT/FI00/00264	

I.	Bas	sis of the report	
1.	With	regard to the elements of the international application:*	
	$\boxtimes$	the international application as originally filed	
	$\Box$	the description:	
		pages, as originally	filed
		pages, filed with the de	mand
		pages, filed with the letter of	
		the claims:	
		pages, as originally	
		pages, as amended (together with any statement) under artic	le 19:
		pages, filed with the de	mand
		pages, filed with the letter of	
	Ш	the drawings:	Elad
		pages, as originally	
		pages, filed with the de	mand
		the sequence listing part of the description:  pages , as originally	filed
		pages, as originally pages, filed with the details.	mand
		pages, filed with the letter of	
	the in These	regard to the language, all the elements marked above were available or furnished to this Authority in the language in valernational application was filed, unless otherwise indicated under this item.  e elements were available or furnished to this Authority in the following language   English which the language of a translation furnished for the purposes of international search (under Rule 23.1(b)).  the language of publication of the international application (under Rule 48.3(b)).  the language of the translation furnished for the purposes of international preliminary examination (under Rules 55.2 at or 55.3).  regard to any nucleotide and/or amino acid sequence disclosed in the international application, the international	ch is:
		ninary examination was carried out on the basis of the sequence listing:  contained in the international application in written form.	
	$\sqcap$	filed together with the international application in computer readable form.	
	Ħ	furnished subsequently to this Authority in written form.	
	Ħ	furnished subsequently to this Authority in computer readable form.	
		The statement that the subsequently furnished written sequence listing does not go beyond the disclosure in the international application as filed has been furnished.  The statement that the information recorded in computer readable form is identical to the written sequence listing has been furnished.	
4.		The amendments have resulted in the cancellation of:	
		the description, pages	
		the claims, Nos.	
		the drawings, sheet/fig	
5.		This report has been established as if (some of) the amendments had not been made, since they have been considered to beyond the disclosure as filed, as indicated in the Supplemental Box (Rule 70.2 (c)).**	o go
	in thi.	acement sheets which have been furnished to the receiving Office in response to an invitation under Article 14 are refer is report as "originally filed" and are annexed to this report since they do not contain amendments (Rules 70.16 70.17).	red to
		replacement sheet containing such amendments must be referred to under item I and annexed to this report.	



International application No. PCT/FI00/00264

V.	Reasoned statement under Article 35(2) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability;
	citations and explanations supporting such statement

1.	Statement			
	Novelty (N)	Claims Claims	1-15	YES NO
	Inventive step (IS)	Claims Claims	1-15	YES NO
	Industrial applicability (IA)	Claims Claims	1-15	YES NO

2. Citations and explanations (Rule 70.7)

Documents cited in the International Search Report:

D1: US 4 294 185 D2: US 4 497 271 D3: US 3 776 169 D4: US 3 603 544 D5: WO 9 730 890

The claimed invention relates to a method and a device for securing horizontally loaded cargo units on a vessel. The cargo units are handled and secured for transporting the cargo units on the vessel. The cargo unit is secured to the vessel and/or to an adjacent cargo unit by means of securing elements forming an interlocking coupling. Furthermore, the adjacent unit is located at the longitudinal side of the cargo unit with respect to the driving direction thereof by means of securing elements placed on the vertical sides of the cargo unit. The securing element is fixed to a bulkhead of the vessel and to the cargo unit or to the adjacent cargo units. With their locking arrangement, the securing elements prevent vertical movement and form an interlocking coupling. The cargo unit is then secured and remains in place in the securing position.

D1, the closest prior art, discloses a system for securing containers in a ship's hold. At the midpoint of the length of the cell and at least one side of the cell, a flanged guide is attached to the ship's structure. The guide co-operates with two hooks, which are each detachably connected to a bottom corner piece of one of the containers at the sides.

. . . / . . .



International application No.

PCT/FI00/00264

Supplemental Box

(To be used when the space in any of the preceding boxes is not sufficient)

Continuation of: Box V(I)

Claims 1-15 differs from D1 in that the securing elements are located at the longitudinal side of the cargo unit with respect to the driving direction.

The invention according to claims 1-15 is thus novel and is considered to involve an inventive step and to have industrial applicability.

# **PCT**

## INTERNATIONAL SEARCH RÉPORT

(PCT Article 18 and Rules 43 and 44)

Applicant's or agent's file reference HJ/FI990730	FOR FURTHER see Notification of ACTION (Form PCI/ISA.22	Transmittal of International Search Report 20) as well as, where applicable, item 5 below.					
International application No.	International filing date (day.month/year)	(Earliest) Priority Date (day/month/year)					
PCT/FI 00/00264	29 March 2000	1 April 1999					
Applicant							
Finnlines OYJ et al							
This international search report has applicant according to Article 18. A	This international search report has been prepared by this International Searching Authority and is transmitted to the applicant according to Article 18. A copy is being transmitted to the International Bureau.						
This international search report con	sists of a total of 3 sheets.						
	a copy of each prior art document cited in t	his report.					
1. Certain claims were found	unscarchable (See Box 1).						
2. Unity of invention is lacking	g (See Box II).						
3. The international application international search was earth	on contains disclosure of a nucleotide and/or arried out on the basis of the sequence listing	r amino acid sequence listing and the					
·	filed with the international application.						
	furnished by the applicant separately from the	ie international application,					
	but not accompanied by a staten matter going beyond the disclosu	nent to the effect that it did not include are in the international application as filed.					
	transcribed by this Authority.						
4. With regard to the title, x	the text is approved as submitted by the app	licant.					
<u> </u>	the text has been established by this Authori	ity to read as follows:					
5. With regard to the abstract,							
	he text is approved as submitted by the appl	icant.					
·	he text has been established, according to R in Box III. The applicant may, within one in national search report, submit comments to (	onth from the date of mailing of this inter-					
6. The figure of the drawings to be	published with the abstract is:						
1	as suggested by the applicant.	None of the figures.					
1 —	because the applicant failed to suggest a figu	•					
	because this figure better characterizes the in	nvention.					
	·						

	. •	РСТ	7/FI 00/00264	
A. CLAS	SIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER			
IPC7: I	B63B 25/24 o International Patent Classification (IPC) or to both na	tional classification and IPC		
B. FIELI	DS SEARCHED			
Minimum d	ocumentation searched (classification system followed by	classification symbols)		
IPC7: I	B63B			
1)ocumenta	tion searched other than minimum documentation to the	extent that such documents	are included in the fields searched	
SE,DK,	FI,NO classes as above			
Electronic d	ata base consulted during the international search (name	of data base and, where prac	ticable, search terms used)	
C. DOCU	MENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT			
Category*	Citation of document, with indication, where app	ropriate, of the relevant p	oassages Relevant to claim No.	
A	US 4294185 A (NORDSTROM ET AL), (13.10.81)	13 October 1981	1-15	
A	US 4497271 A (GLOYSTEIN), 5 Febr (05.02.85)	uary 1985	1-15	
A	US 3776169 A (STRECKER), 4 Decem (04.12.73)	ber 1973	1-15	
A	US 3603544 A (GRIFFITH), 7 Sept	1971 (07.09.71)	1-15	
X Furth	ler documents are listed in the continuation of Box	C. X See patent	family annex.	
"A" docum	categories of cited documents: ent defining the general state of the art which is not considered of particular relevance	date and not in confli	hed after the international filing date or priority ct with the application but cited to understand y underlying the invention	
"E" erlier document but published on or after the international filing date "L" document which may throw doubts on priority claim(s) or which is cited to establish the publication date of another citation or other				
special reason (as specified)  "O" document referring to an oral disclosure, use, exhibition or other means "P" document published prior to the international filing date but later than document published prior to the international filing date but later than document published prior to the international filing date but later than document published prior to the international filing date but later than document published prior to the international filing date but later than document published prior to the international filing date but later than document of particular relevance: the claimed invention cannot considered to involve an inventive step when the document is combined with one or more other such documents, such combined with one or more other such documents.				
the pri	ority date claimed		the same patent family	
	e actual completion of the international search		nternational search report -08- 2000	
	st 2000 I mailing address of the ISA	Authorized officer		
1	Patent Office			

Christer Jönsson/LR

Telephone No. + 46 8 782 25 00

Box 5055, S-102 42 STOCKHOLM



International application No. PCT/FI 00/00264

Category*	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No
A	WO 9730890 A1 (JOHANSSON), 28 August 1997 (28.08.97)	1-15
	· ·	



International application No.

0.2/12/99

PCT/FI 00/00264

•	atent document I in search repor	t	Publication date		Patent family member(s)	Publication date	
US	4294185	Α	13/10/81	NONE			
US	4497271	Α	05/02/85	NONE			
US	3776169	Α	04/12/73	NONE			
US	3603544	Α	07/09/71	DE FR GB NL NL SE	1756680 A,B,C 1580341 A 1228013 A 165984 B,C 6809031 A 334294 B	30/04/70 05/09/69 15/04/71 15/01/81 27/12/68 19/04/71	
WO	9730890	A1	28/08/97	AU AU EP EP SE SE	2238197 A 5785796 A 0825954 A 0880451 A 509258 C 9600632 A	10/09/97 29/11/96 04/03/98 02/12/98 21/12/98 21/08/97	

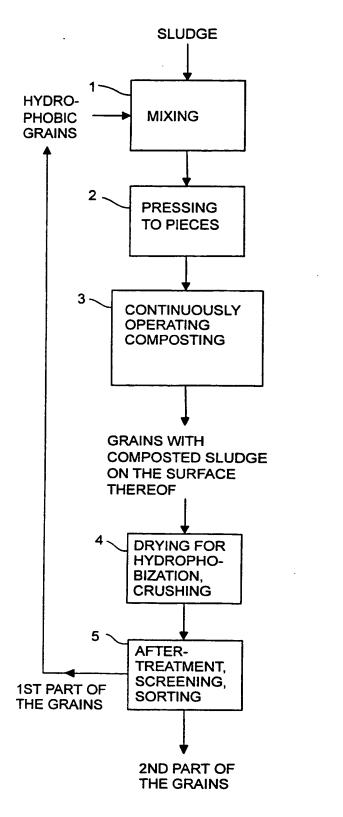


Fig. 1

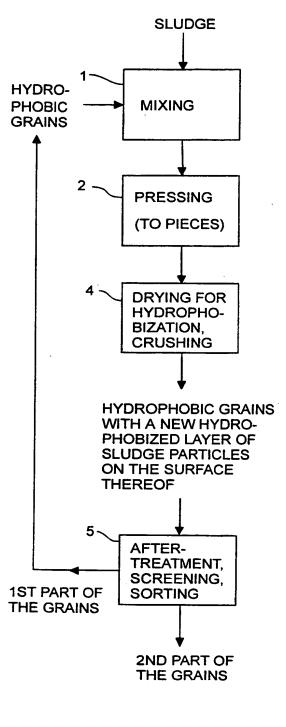


Fig. 2

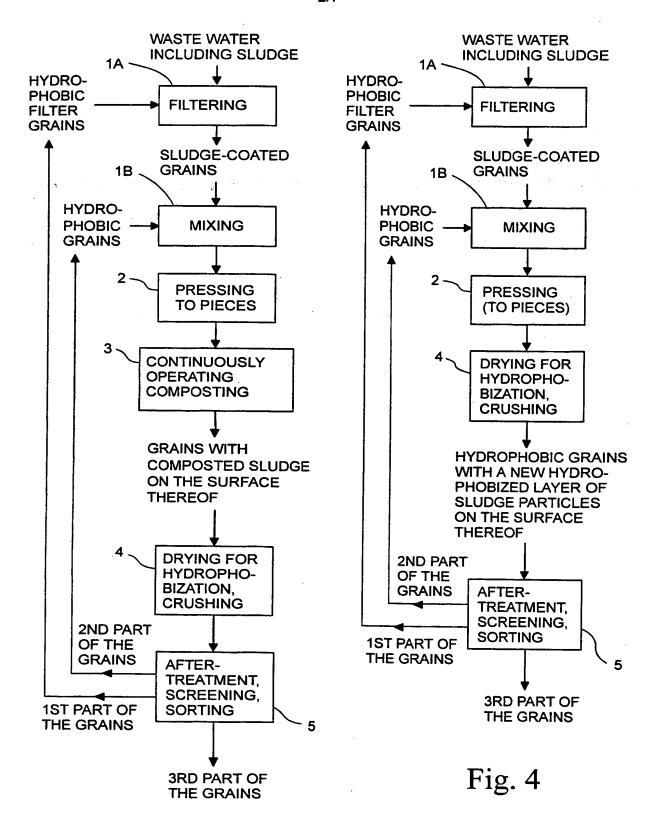
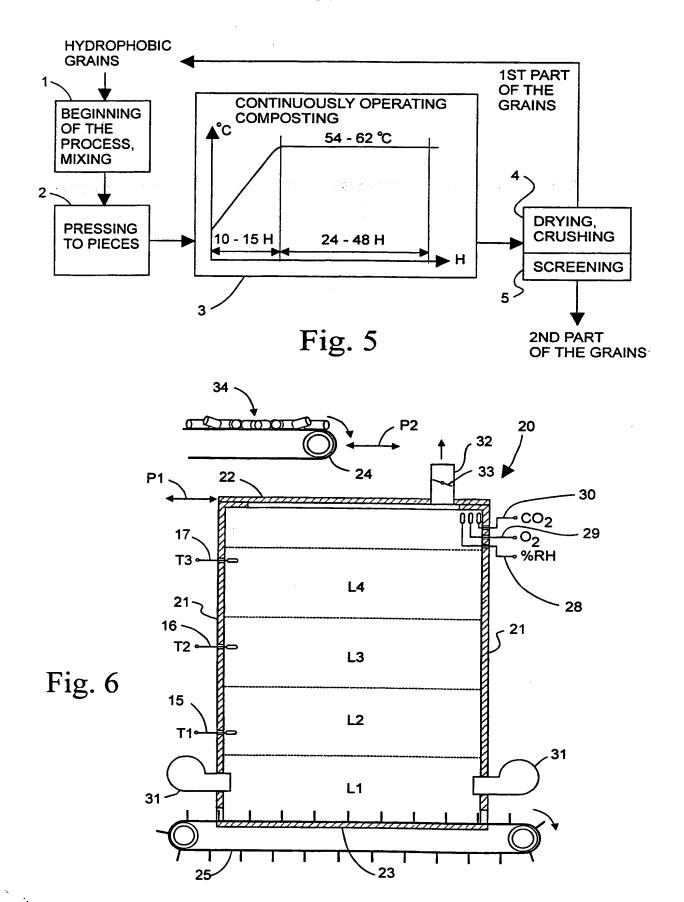
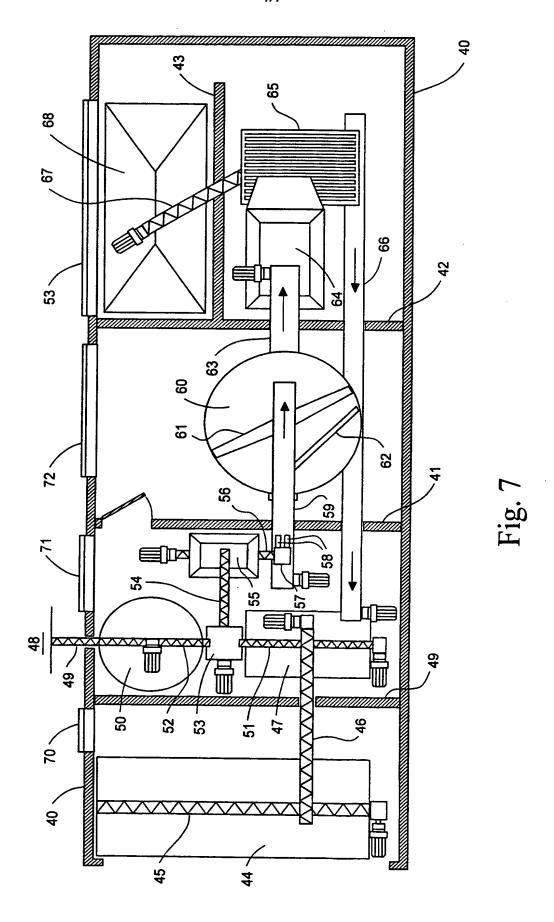


Fig. 3





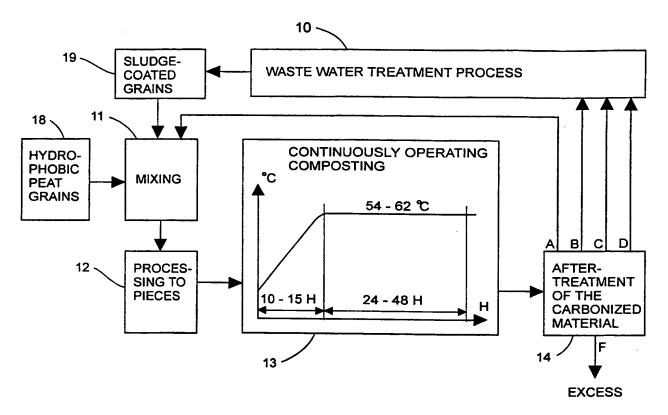
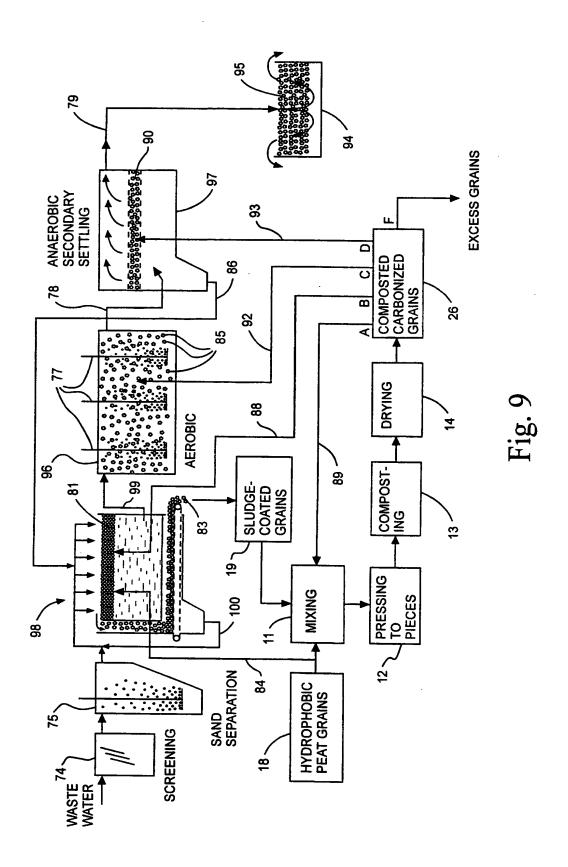
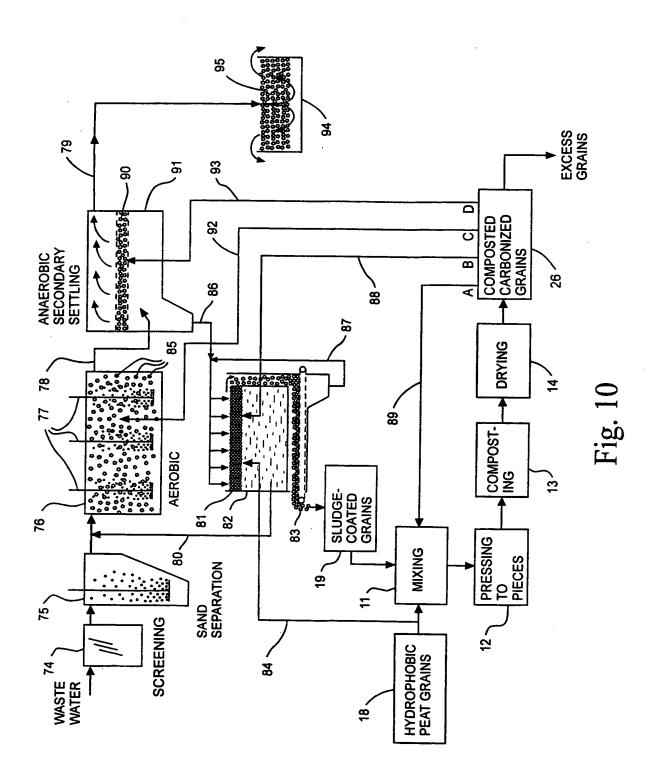


Fig. 8





09 1.937.970

### PATENT COOPERATION TREATY

**PCT** 

REC'D	16	AUG	2001
WIPO	******		PCT

#### INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY EXAMINATION REPORT

(PCT Article 36 and Rule 70)

3612

Applicant's or agent's file reference	FOR FURTHER ACTION	ACTION See Notification of Transmittal of International			
0040wo		<u>-</u>	Examination Report (Form PCT/IPEA/416)		
International application No.	International filing date (day m				
PCT/F100/00262	29.03.2000		29.03.1999		
International Patent Classification (IPC) o	r national classification and IPC;	7			
C02F 11/12					
Applicant					
ETOR OY et al					
DION OF CC ar					
This international preliminary exa Authority and is transmitted to the	This international preliminary examination report has been prepared by this International Preliminary Examining Authority and is transmitted to the applicant according to Article 36.				
2. This REPORT consists of a total of	of 4 sheets, include	ling this cover	sheet.		
been amended and are the b	nied by ANNEXES, i.e., sheets of pasis for this report and/or sheets in 607 of the Administrative Instru	containing rec	on, claims and/or drawings which have tifications made before this Authority he PCT).		
These annexes consist of a total o	f 2 sheets.				
3. This report contains indications re	elating to the following items:				
I Basis of the report					
II Priority			·		
III Non-establishment of	f opinion with regard to novelty,	inventive step	and industrial applicability		
IV Lack of unity of inve	ntion				
	under Article 35(2) with regard to tions supporting such statement	novelty, inve	ntive step or industrial applicability;		
VI Certain documents ci	ited				
VII Certain defects in the	international application				
VIII Certain observations	on the international application				
Data of automical and Call James 1	175-4-	-C. name 1 - 4:	of this person		
Date of submission of the demand	Date	of completion of	or uns report		
23.10.2000	23.10.2000 06.08.2001				
Name and mailing address of the IPEA/SE	E Autho	rized officer			
Patent- och registreringsverket Telex Box 5055 17978					
S-102 42 STOCKHOLD PATOREG-S Lars Ekeberg/js					
Facsimile No. 08-667 72 88 Telephone No. 08-782 25 00					

International application No.

PCT/FI00/00262

I.	Basi	asis of the report	
1.	With	th regard to the elements of the international application:*	
		the international application as originally filed	
	$\boxtimes$	the description:	
		pages <u>1-11</u>	, as originally filed
		pages	, filed with the demand
		pages, i	iled with the letter of
	$\boxtimes$	the claims:	
		pages	, as originally filed
		pages, as	s amended (together with any statement) under article 19
		pages	, filed with the demand
		pages <u>13-14</u> , f	iled with the letter of 23.05.2001
	$\bowtie$	the drawings:	1161.1
		pages <u>1 - 7</u>	, as originally filed
		pages	, filed with the letter of
		pages	ned with the letter of
	لــا	the sequence listing part of the description:	, as originally filed
		pages	
		pages	iled with the letter of
•	*****		
		th regard to the language, all the elements marked above were available international application was filed, unless otherwise indicated under the	
		ese elements were available or furnished to this Authority in the follow	
		the language of a translation furnished for the purposes of internation	onal search (under Rule 23.1(b)).
	$\overline{\boxtimes}$	the language of publication of the international application (under I	Rule 48.3(b)).
		the language of the translation furnished for the purposes of internal or 55.3).	tional preliminary examination (under Rules 55.2 and/
3	With r	th regard to any nucleotide and/or amino acid sequence disclosed in	the international application, the international
		liminary examination was carried out on the basis of the sequence listing	
		contained in the international application in written form.	
	$\Box$	filed together with the international application in computer readab	le form.
	同	furnished subsequently to this Authority in written form.	
	Ħ.	furnished subsequently to this Authority in computer readable form	ı.
	Ħ	The statement that the subsequently furnished written sequence list	ing does not go beyond the disclosure in the
		<ul> <li>international application as filed has been furnished.</li> <li>The statement that the information recorded in computer readable f</li> </ul>	orm is identical to the written sequence listing has
	Ш	been furnished.	with the sequence hang has
4.		The amendments have resulted in the cancellation of:	
		the description was a	
		the drawings, sheet/fig	
5.		This report has been established as if (some of) the amendments ha beyond the disclosure as filed, as indicated in the Supplemental Box	
*	in thi	placement sheets which have been furnished to the receiving Office in , this report as "originally filed" and are annexed to this report since th d 70.17).	response to an invitation under Article 14 are referred to ey do not contain amendments (Rules 70.16
**		y replacement sheet containing such amendments must be referred to t	under item I and annexed to this report.

International application No.

PCT/FI00/00262

V.	Reasoned statement under Article 35(2) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement

1.	Statement			
	Novelty (N)	Claims Claims	1-14	YES NO
	Inventive step (IS)	Claims Claims	1-14	YES NO
	Industrial applicability (IA)	Claims Claims	1-14	YES NO

#### 2. Citations and explanations (Rule 70.7)

This report is based on amended claims 1-14, filed with the letter of 23.05.2001. Original claims 15-17 have been deleted.

The invention relates to a method of treating and utilising sludge, wherein, as a first stage the hydrophilic sludge particles are caused to attach to the surface of hydrophobic organic grains. In a second stage the grains thus obtained are dried, in order to turn the water-bearing layer of sludge particles on the surface hydrophobic. An essential part of the grains are then returned to the first stage.

The following documents have been cited in the International Search Report:

D1: WO 97/01513 A1

D2: US 5,611,935 A

D3: US 5,614,458 A

D4: WO 94/01369 A1

Among these, D1 is considered to the closest document. All cited documents are, however, only considered to represent the state of the prior art.

D1 has been re-evaluated since the establishment of the search report. It is no longer considered to be of particular relevance regarding claims 1-14.

D1, discloses a waste sludge treatment process, in which a solid additive that includes hydrophobic grains of peat is mixed with the sludge. The invention differs from the method described in D1 in that a portion of the grains are recirculated, whereby the amount of grain used can be reduced drastically.

.../...

International application No.

PCT/FI00/00262

Sunnlemental Box

(To be used when the space in any of the preceding boxes is not sufficient)

Continuation of: Box V (I)

This difference is, despite of its simplicity, not considered to be obvious. Nowhere in D1 is it implied that the grains might be re-used in order to increase their bonding capacity. There are no suggestions in the cited documents leading a person skilled in the art towards the invention defined by claims 1-14.

Consequently, the invention according to claims 1-14 fulfils the criteria of novelty, inventive step, and industrial applicability.

Form PCT/IPEA/409 (Supplemental Box) (January 1998)

The Swedish Patent Cilico

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1. A method of treating and utilizing sludge, characterized in that therein:

in a first phase (1, 1A, 1B, 2) hydrophilic water binding sludge particles are caused to attach to the surface of hydrophobic organic grains, like hydrophobic grains of peat,

in a second phase (4) the grains obtained thereby having a water-bearing layer of sludge particles on the surface thereof are dried to hydrophobize also the surface layer, in a third phase (5) an essential portion of the hydrophobic grains obtainded thereby are circulated back to said first phase of the method.

- 2. A method according to claim 1, **characterized** in that hydrophobic grains are circulated in the method 5 to 10 times on an average.
- 3. A method according to claim 1, **characterized** in that sludge particles are in said first phase caused to attach to the surface of hydrophobic organic grains by mixing hydrophobic grains with sludge (1) and by extruding (2) the mixture obtained.
- 4. A method according to claim 1, **characterized** in that sludge particles are in said first phase caused to attach to the surface of hydrophobic organic grains by filtering water including sludge by means of the grains (1A), by mixing the sludge-coated grains with hydrophobic organic grains according to need (1B) and by extruding (2) the mixture obtained.
- 5. A method according to claim 4, **characterized** in that grains hydrophobized again by drying are circulated back (5) to both the filtering (1A) and mixing (1B).
  - 6. A method according to claim 1, **characterized** in that grains grown up or attached to each other in the circulation are split to smaller ones.
  - 7. A method according to claim 1, **characterized** in that the grains are composted (3) between said first phase and second phase (4).
- 8. A method according to claim 7, **characterized** in that the mixture is composted (3) as extruded to pieces in a continuously operating process in which the temperature of the

pieces is raised rapidly to the thermophilic range within which the composting is mainly carried out (Figs 5 and 8).

9. A method according to claim 1, **characterized** in that grains taken off from the circulation are coated.

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- 10. A method according to claim 9, **characterized** in that grains taken off from the circulation are coated with one or more of the following materials: lime, ash, nutrient solution, clay, gypsum, silicon carbonate.
- 11. A method according to claim 1, **characterized** in that grains are coated with selected materials between cycles of circulation whereby a layer of said materials is formed in the inside of grains.
- 12. A method according to claim 11, **characterized** in that a selected material is a solution or a mass including nutrients.
  - 13. A method according to claim 1, **characterized** in that substances affecting the properties of the grains are added to the sludge, the mixture of the sludge and hydrophobic grains, or the mixture of the sludge-coated grains and hydrophobic grains.
    - 14. A method according to claim 13, **characterized** in that the added substances affect one or more of the following properties: nutrient content, solubility of nutrients, pH.

### **PCT**

# WORLD INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY ORGANIZATION International Bureau



### INTERNATIONAL APPLICATION PUBLISHED UNDER THE PATENT COOPERATION TREATY (PCT)

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C02F 11/12

(11) International Publication Number: WO 00/58229

(43) International Publication Date: 5 October 2000 (05.10.00)

(21) International Application Number:

PCT/FI00/00262

(22) International Filing Date:

29 March 2000 (29.03.00)

(30) Priority Data:

1

 990696
 29 March 1999 (29.03.99)
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 19992178
 11 October 1999 (11.10.99)
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 19992853
 31 December 1999 (31.12.99)
 FI

(71) Applicant (for all designated States except US): ETOR OY [FI/FI]; Haapakuja 11 C 19, FIN-90650 Oulu (FI).

(72) Inventor; and

(75) Inventor/Applicant (for US only): TORKKELI, Esko [FI/FI]; Haapakuja 11 C 19, FIN-90650 Oulu (FI).

(74) Agent: LAURINOLLI, Tapio; Patenttitoimisto Tapio Laurinolli, P.O. Box 258, FIN-90101 Oulu (FI).

(81) Designated States: AE, AL, AM, AT, AU, AZ, BA, BB, BG, BR, BY, CA, CH, CN, CR, CU, CZ, DE, DK, DM, EE, ES, FI, GB, GD, GE, GH, GM, HR, HU, ID, IL, IN, IS, JP, KE, KG, KP, KR, KZ, LC, LK, LR, LS, LT, LU, LV, MA, MD, MG, MK, MN, MW, MX, NO, NZ, PL, PT, RO, RU, SD, SE, SG, SI, SK, SL, TJ, TM, TR, TT, TZ, UA, UG, US, UZ, VN, YU, ZA, ZW, ARIPO patent (GH, GM, KE, LS, MW, SD, SL, SZ, TZ, UG, ZW), Eurasian patent (AM, AZ, BY, KG, KZ, MD, RU, TJ, TM), European patent (AT, BE, CH, CY, DE, DK, ES, FI, FR, GB, GR, IE, IT, LU, MC, NL, PT, SE), OAPI patent (BF, BJ, CF, CG, CI, CM, GA, GN, GW, ML, MR, NE, SN, TD, TG).

#### Published

With international search report.

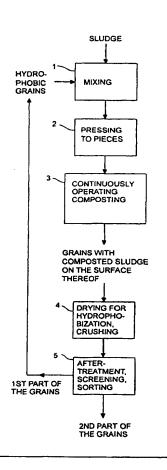
Before the expiration of the time limit for amending the claims and to be republished in the event of the receipt of amendments.

In English translation (filed in Finnish).

(54) Title: METHOD OF TREATING AND UTILIZING SLUDGE

#### (57) Abstract

A method of treating and utilizing sludge is characterized in that in a first phase (1, 2) sludge particles are bound to the surface of hydrophobic organic grains, like hydrophobic grains of peat, in a second phase (4) the grains obtained thereby, having a layer of sludge particles including a lot of water on the surface of hydrophobic grains, are dried to hydrophobize also the surface layer, and in a third phase (5) an essential portion of the hydrophobic grains obtained thereby are circulated back to said first phase of the method. Attachment of sludge particles to the surface of hydrophobic grains is promoted by extruding (2) the mixture of sludge and hydrophobic grains. Grains are circulated in the method 5 to 10 times, for example. The method may include a rapid continuously operating composting between said first and second phase. With the invention, very remarkable savings are achieved in raw material costs of sludge treatment. The sludge is brought to a solid and advantageous form largely by means of the solid matter and energy of the sludge itself. The invention may be utilized especially in biological treatment of waste water, manufacture of fertilizers and treatment of sludge for burning.



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